

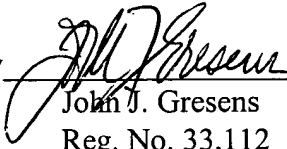
Applicants respectfully request that the preliminary amendment described herein be entered into the record prior to calculation of the filing fee and prior to examination and consideration of the above-identified application.

If a telephone conference would be helpful in resolving any issues concerning this communication, please contact Applicants' primary attorney-of record, John J. Gresens (Reg. No. 33,112), at (612) 371.5265.

Respectfully submitted,

MERCHANT & GOULD P.C.
P.O. Box 2903
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55402-0903
(612) 332-5300

Dated: May 29, 2001

By 
John J. Gresens
Reg. No. 33,112

JJG/tvm

MARKED-UP COPY

8. (Amended) Image encoding method according to [any of the claims 1 to 6] claim 1, characterized in that said mass collage function w_M is written in the form of a combination of oscillating functions whose number and/or frequency and/or amplitude can be parametrized.

14. (Amended) Application of the method according to [any of the claims 1 to 8] claim 1 to at least one of the fields belonging to the group comprising the following fields:

- compression of fixed images;
- compression (of images) in "intra" mode in a video encoder;
- compression of images or of a part of the images that are textured;
- magnification (zooming) of image zones;
- compression in spaces having a size greater than 2.